GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:296
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
PREPARATION FOR BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008
Kuppusami Shri C.;Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the events in which India has decided to participate in the Beijing Olympic Games 2008 alongwith details of preparation made thereto including training etc., event-wise;

(b) the reasons for the poor performance of the Indian sports persons in the last Olympic Games;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the same; and

(d) the amount of funds earmarked by the Government for preparation/training of sports persons for Beijing Olympic Games 2008 alongwith the amount spent therefrom during the last three years, year-wise?

Answer

THE MINITER OF PANCHYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 296 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2008 ASKED BY PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT AND SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI REGARDING PREPARATION FOR BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

(a) 25 sportspersons belonging to 7 disciplines viz. shooting, athletics, archery, boxing, swimming, wrestling, table tennis have qualified so far to participate in Beijing Olympic Games 2008. The discipline-wise break-up is as follows:

Shooting	9
Athletics	6
Archery	4
Boxing	2
Swimming	1
Wrestling	1
Table Tennis	2

More players are likely to qualify. The final number of sportspersons belonging to different disciplines will be known after all qualifying rounds are over.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Sports Federations (NSFs) have identified medal probables in 6 of the 12 disciplines in which India is likely to participate in Beijing Olympics 2008 and are implementing their training programme in terms of coaching, international exposures, scientific and equipment support and engagement of foreign coaches. On the basis of the training given and the current performances of the players, India is estimated to hold promising medal prospects in the disciplines of Shooting, Archery, Wrestling, Boxing, Athletics and Tennis.

(b) & (c): Our overall performance in the international sporting events including last Olympic Games held at Athens in 2004 has not been satisfactory in the past mainly because of the narrow pool of talented athletes from which our talent is drawn compared to the overall strength of our youth population. Talent on a vast scale has to be spotted, nurtured and trained to eventually and exponentially expand our medal prospects. With a view to addressing this issue, the Government have recently approved the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan, which is aimed at providing basic sports infrastructure and promoting sports competitions at the grassroots level. Apart from broad-basing of sports, in the long run, this will result in exponential growth in the identification of gifted and talented athletes who can then be groomed in to high performing athletes and thus lead to increased medal prospects at the international level. The Ministry has also prepared a Draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy 2008, which, apart from addressing the deficiencies in

the system, aims at generating a positive attitude towards sports in the country thus facilitating the emergence of India as a leading sporting nation.

(d) There is no separate budget allocated for preparation/training of sportspersons for Beijing Olympic Games 2008. Preparations for winning more medals in all major international events, including the Beijing Olympics, is an on-going process and is based on the Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) prepared by the NSFs. Government provides assistance to the NSFs for various activities such as holding national/international sports events in India, the participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, the engagement of national and international coaches and the procurement of equipment and consumables.

To address the specific coaching/training requirements of identified medal prospects, individual sportspersons are also assisted directly by the Ministry for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training" and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'. The details of amount spent by Government under these schemes during the last three years are given below.

(Rs in Crores)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released in		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (till Jan'08)
1.	Scheme of Assistance to NSFs	38.67	34.08	49.10
2.	Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training	0.50	2.8	3.0
3.	National Sports Development Fund	0.48	0.96	1.63 released (Total sanctioned Rs 2.20 cr)